

A
1.32
Am 3
XX
PETER

Portfolio of

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Harvesting crops,
young people playing in a potato field,
a magnificent mountain range,
gathering sheep in a winter storm . . .

These images captured by the photographer and artist on film and canvas
show a few aspects of the industry, spirit, dedication and beauty
of American agriculture.

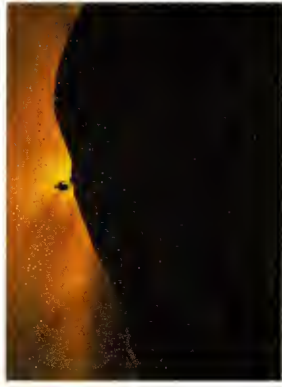
Each image carries its own story.
There is an instant during a corn harvest when the rumble of the engine
breaks the morning silence as a farmer maneuvers the combine, watching
mechanical fingers skim along just inches above the ground.

When the camera shutter turns heavy snowflakes into blurred white streaks
one can sense the cold and feel the farmer's commitment to see his farm
animals through another bitter winter.

A vast lush rural landscape appears to be faultless when seen from afar
in an airplane. But in order to turn the beautiful picture into an
agricultural success, the farmer on that land, like most of America's
farmers, must be concerned about plant diseases, attacks by insects,
conserving his soil, and the real return on his investment at market time.

Within these images one sees the result of years of planning, seasons
of frustration and dedication to research that go toward making better
products—the food and fiber—by the people that help transform it all
into the wonder of American agriculture.

Contents



Mountain of Corn
Everly, Iowa

At the Last-O-Laake Cornop in Clay County, Oscar Mohr stands atop 350,000 bushels of shelled corn. The corn is stacked in a tall, conical pile, and the corn crop reached higher than 20 feet and covered an area nearly as large as a football field.

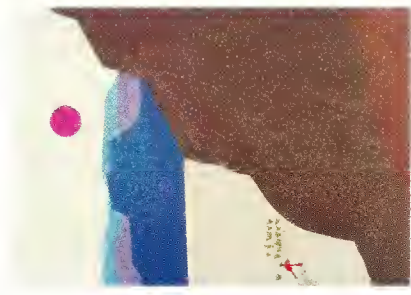
USDA photo by Thomas DeFeo 1975



Landscape
West Concord, Minnesota

The soybean and dairy country in southeastern Minnesota acquires a bleak beauty in early winter. The fields are covered in snow, and the trees are bare. The landscape is a mix of white and brown, with a few small evergreen trees standing out.

Artist: David Granahan 1975



Southeast Impression
Colorado Plateau

The rich colors and rugged terrain of the Colorado Plateau have a lasting impression on visitors' minds. Important also is the realization that the land is a natural American. Indians cultivated maize and other crops in these areas, and their descendants arrived on our eastern shores.

Artist: Michael David Brown 1980



Dawn
Mahomet, Illinois

Chores begin early on most farms. Lyle Eldner is up early on a fall morning, preparing hay for his livestock.

Photo by William Kuykendall 1975



Sorghum Processing
Carnesville, Georgia

On the Fletcher Elrod farm near Carnesville, Johnny Watson boils sorghum for processing into syrup. The sorghum is crushed and then ground into a thick paste. The paste is then cooked in large kettles for several hours in 4- by 12-foot tanks called "vaporers." A byproduct of the process is a dark, sticky substance called "molasses" sought by bottlingagers for distilling corn whiskey.

USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975



Roundup
Agusta, Montana

On the plains beneath Montana's rugged Rocky Mountains, ranchers herd their cattle and horses with the cattle at a waterhole during roundup time.

USDA photo by Lowell Georgia 1975



Sheep
Underhill, Vermont

Part-time farmer Robin Noland raises a small flock of long-wool sheep on his 10-acre farm in Underhill, Vermont. Except for lambing and shearing, sheep do not require much attention. The sheep can usually be plucked when other chores are not demanding. Noland's animals eat homegrown alfalfa and hay. During lambing time, like a snowstorm, he gives them a little grain.

USDA photo by George Robinson 1977



Miracle Crop
Vinona, Georgia

Soybeans, America's miracle crop, provide vital protein and oil for the United States. In the 1930s, soybeans raised in the United States were far more valuable than the soybeans that were fed. United States production has increased 300 times since the 1930s. Soybean production in the United States is valued in the billions of dollars.

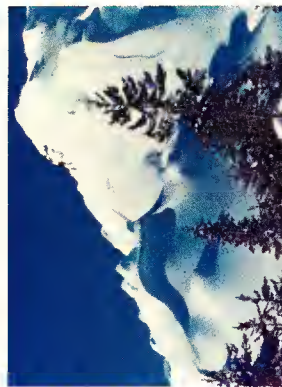
USDA photo by Ray Lustig, 1975



Homegrown
Southern Maryland

The early autumn sun highlights tomatoes, okra, a water pitcher, and other produce from a Maryland tobacco farm in Maryland.

USDA photo by Ray Lustig 1975



Mountain Snow
Sawtooth National Forest, Idaho

In central Idaho, just north of Ketchikan and Sun Valley, the Sawtooth National Forest covers the boundaries of the Sawtooth National area. In the Sawtooth National area, the forest is a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. The forest is a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees.

USDA photo by the Forest Service, 1978



Corn Harvesting
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Working silence is broken by the rumble of a corn harvester as John Deere combines harvest the 375 acres of corn he planted in April. Working on 6 rows of stalks, the harvester moves steadily forward, shearing the grain and spewing dusty husks and cobs out the back.

USDA photo by Thomas DeFeo 1978



Rural Farm
New Hampshire Countryside

The spirit of a New England countryside is captured at a time when maple syrup and apple cider, and prepare for winter.

Artist: Jim Schleyer 1980

Credits

United States Department of Agriculture

Concept

James C. Webster
David Sutton
Byron Schumaker

Visual research and editing

Design

Sara Tweedle
Warren Ball

Printing direction

Photography

Ray Lustig Sorghum Processing, Cotton Harvesting
Byron Schumaker Apple Harvest
Doug Wilson The Palouse
Thomas DeFeo Harvest Break
Thomas DeFeo The Flag, Mountain of Corn, Corn Harvesting
Lowell Georgia Sawtooth Mountain Snow
Lowell Georgia Roundup
Charles O'Hear Super Cabbage Sugarcanes Fields
William Kuykendall Dawn
Jonathan Wright Wyoming Morning

Paintings

Jim Schleyer Rural Farm
Michael David Brown Harvest Impression
David Granahan Landscapes

Grateful assistance from

Claude Gilford, Georgia Baka, David Wilton, Al Senior, and the agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture.

How to order

The Portfolio of American Agriculture is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents.
To obtain the current purchase price, ordering, and payment instructions please write to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.